

Listing of Claims:

1 - 6 CANCELLED.

7. (previously amended) A method for bleaching medium consistency cellulose pulp comprising the steps of providing a stream of said cellulose pulp, generating a stream of ozone-containing gas consisting essentially of a carrier and ozone at a concentration of at least 20% by weight, and radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp so as to provide a stream of bleached cellulose pulp without using a high-shear mixer during said steps.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, including generating said stream of ozone-containing gas from a mixture of ~~said pressurized precompressed~~ oxygen and at least one other gas or liquid.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, including radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp at a pressure of at least 10 bar.

10. (original) The method of claim 7, including radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp from a plurality of nozzles adapted to direct said ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, including radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp substantially perpendicularly to said stream of cellulose pulp.

12. (original) The method of claim 7, including feeding said stream of bleached cellulose pulp to a dynamic low to medium intensity mixer.

13. (original) The method of claim 7, including radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp by means of a plurality of porous metal injectors.

14. (original) A method for bleaching medium consistency cellulose pulp comprising the steps of providing a stream of said cellulose pulp, generating a stream of ozone-containing gas having an ozone concentration of at least 20% by weight, and radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp so as to provide a stream of bleached cellulose pulp without using a high-shear mixer during said steps, wherein said ozone-containing gas has a mean residence time of about 10 to about 40 seconds in said cellulose pulp.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said ozone-containing gas has an ozone concentration of more than 300 g/m³.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said bleaching step is conducted without using an upflow bleach tower.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said bleaching step is conducted without using a mixer.

18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the injection of said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp creates a gas void of no more than 12%.

19. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein sufficient number of nozzles are provided for even distribution of said ozone-containing gas in said stream of cellulose pulp.

20. (original) A method for bleaching medium consistency cellulose pulp comprising the steps of providing a stream of said cellulose pulp, generating a stream of ozone-containing gas which is substantially free from chlorine and has an ozone concentration of at least 20% by weight, and radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp so as to provide a stream of bleached cellulose pulp without using a high-sheer mixer during said steps.

21. (new) A method for bleaching medium consistency cellulose pulp comprising the steps of providing a stream of said cellulose pulp, generating a stream of ozone-containing gas formed of precompressed oxygen, and which has an ozone concentration of at least 20% by weight, and radially injecting said stream of ozone-containing gas into said stream of cellulose pulp so as to provide a stream of bleached cellulose pulp without using a high shear mixer during said steps.